

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A seat assembly for a motor vehicle, comprising:

a seat, a first child seat portion, a second child seat portion, an infant restraint system, and a backrest, wherein said backrest includes a vertically oriented receptacle disposed centrally in said backrest sized to receive said infant restraint system, said first child seat portion, and said second child seat portion;

said a first child seat portion comprising opposing first and second sides, wherein said first side is pivotally interconnected at a first axis of said backrest so as to swing from a closed position when retained within the receptacle of said backrest, and an open position when pivoted out of the receptacle to a position at rest on said seat, and a first component of said infant restraint system; and

said a second child seat portion being pivotally interconnected to said second side of said first child seat portion so as to selectively swing about at a second axis of said second side of said first child seat portion from a closed position wherein said second child seat portion is adjacent to said first child seat portion of an upper end of said first child seat portion so as to selectively swing from a closed position on said first side adjacent said first side within the receptacle of said backrest when said first child seat portion is retained within the receptacle to an open position extending from said second side the upper end of said first child seat portion when said first child seat portion is pivoted to rest on said seat; and

said second child seat portion comprising a second component of said infant restraint system;

whereby, said seat assembly may be selectively used for seating an adult when the first and second child seat portions are contained within the receptacle, a toddler when the first child seat portion is pivoted to rest on the seat and the second child seat portion remains in a closed

position adjacent the first child seat portion, and an infant when the second child seat portion is pivoted about the second axis to the open position.

2. (Previously presented) A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said first child seat portion includes first and second opposed seating surfaces, said first seating surface disposed adjacent the receptacle, and said second seating surface being exposed as a backrest when the first child seat portion is retained within the receptacle.

3. (Previously presented) A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 2, wherein:

said first child seat portion includes an upholstered surface on said second seating surface.

4. (Previously presented) A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said second child seat portion includes first and second opposing seating surfaces, the first surface forming an infant back-supporting surface when said second child seat portion is selectively disposed in the open position about the second axis.

5. (Previously presented) A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said second child seat portion second seating surface includes a child seating surface opposite said infant back-supporting surface.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Withdrawn) A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

a supplemental backrest pivotally interconnected with said backrest, wherein said supplemental backrest comprises a seating surface and an opposing backrest surface.

9. (Withdrawn) A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 8, wherein:

said supplemental backrest is disposed within a first receptacle defined in said seat when in a first position, and wherein said supplemental backrest is disposed in a second receptacle defined in said backrest when in a second position;

10. (Withdrawn) A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 9, wherein:

said seat comprises a supplemental seating apparatus, wherein said backrest surface of said supplemental backrest is disposed between said seating surface of said supplemental backrest and said supplemental seating apparatus when said supplemental backrest is in said first position.

11. (Withdrawn) A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

a supplemental backrest, wherein said supplemental backrest is substantially housed within an interior portion of said backrest when in a first position, and wherein said supplemental backrest is disposed at a peripheral portion of said backrest when in a second position.

12. (Withdrawn) A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said backrest comprises a third child seat portion pivotally interconnected with said backrest, wherein said third child seat portion comprises a restraint device when in a first position, and wherein said third child seat portion comprises a back-supporting component of said backrest when in a second position.

13. (Withdrawn) A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:

said backrest comprises a first portion of a child restraint system, wherein said first portion of said child restraint system is substantially hidden when said third child seat portion is disposed in said first position.

14. (Withdrawn) A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 13, wherein at least one of said first and second child seat portions comprises a second portion of said child restraint system.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of using a seat assembly of a motor vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

configuring the seat assembly in an infant seat arrangement for accommodating an infant;

configuring the seat assembly in a booster seat arrangement for accommodating a child;

and

configuring the seat assembly in an adult seat arrangement for accommodating an adult,

wherein said configuring steps are accomplished without adding or removing components from the motor vehicle.

16. (Withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 15, wherein:

said configuring the seat assembly in an infant seat arrangement step comprises:

pivoting an infant seating portion of the seat assembly relative to a backrest of the seat assembly with which the infant seating portion is interconnected; and

pivoting an infant backrest portion of the seat assembly relative to the infant seating portion with which the infant backrest portion is interconnected.

17. (Withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 15, wherein:

said configuring the seat assembly in a booster seat arrangement step comprises pivoting a booster seating portion of the seat assembly relative to a backrest of the seat assembly with which the booster seating portion is interconnected.

18. (Withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising:

configuring the seat assembly in a toddler seat arrangement for accommodating a toddler.

19. (Withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 18, wherein:

said configuring the seat assembly in a toddler seat arrangement step comprises:

pivoting a toddler seating portion of the seat assembly relative to a backrest of the seat assembly with which the toddler seating portion is interconnected; and

pivoting a toddler restraint relative to the backrest of the seat assembly.

20. (Withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 19, wherein:

at least one of said configuring the seat assembly in a toddler seat arrangement step and said configuring the seat assembly in a booster seat arrangement step comprises deploying a supplemental backrest portion of the seat assembly.